

## THE POSTSCRIPT

## Time for butter

By CARRIE CLASSON  
Columnist

My great-uncle John never buttered his bread. “I don’t have time for butter!” he insisted. I never knew how much time butter took, but apparently it was more than Uncle John could spare.

Time passes so often without notice. A day seems to pass in the time it takes to butter a piece of bread. Last night, my husband, Peter, said that we met seven years ago.

“Eight years,” I corrected him.

We will celebrate our seventh wedding anniversary next month and, while the romance was quick, we had known one another for a year. We married on the one-year anniversary of the day we met.

“That’s right,” Peter said. “Time passes too quickly!”

He is always saying that. He also says that, while he doesn’t know how much time we’ll have together, he knows it will not be enough. (Peter is a romantic. There’s no denying it.)

We are traveling in Mexico now. My temporary desk is set up against a window. I can see the progress being made on the house next door, which is acquiring a new story. I can see the spires of the churches in the distance. I can hear the traffic of cars going by, which seems unnaturally loud as they travel over cobblestones, and the sounds of the roosters and the dogs who always seem to have something urgent to report.

We are traveling again and making plans. I have actual activities written in an actual calendar. Things are slowly returning to normal and, of course, that’s a good thing. But it feels as if time

is speeding up.

My days blend into one another and, before I know it, it is afternoon and I am taking my daily walk through the streets of this Mexican city, seeing something that surprises me every single afternoon saying hello to several dozen friendly strangers and greeting their dogs. The weather has been cool. I note the butcher’s very fat pug is wearing a jacket. The jacket is a little tight, and the pug looks embarrassed.

“What a nice jacket!” I say to the butcher in Spanish, and the butcher laughs. The pug wags its tiny tail but doesn’t look too sure. And another day passes.

It is a cliché, but it is still true that time is the only thing we cannot buy. It is our most limited commodity and our most precious resource. I guess that’s why it shocks me how much of it I allow to slip away without notice.

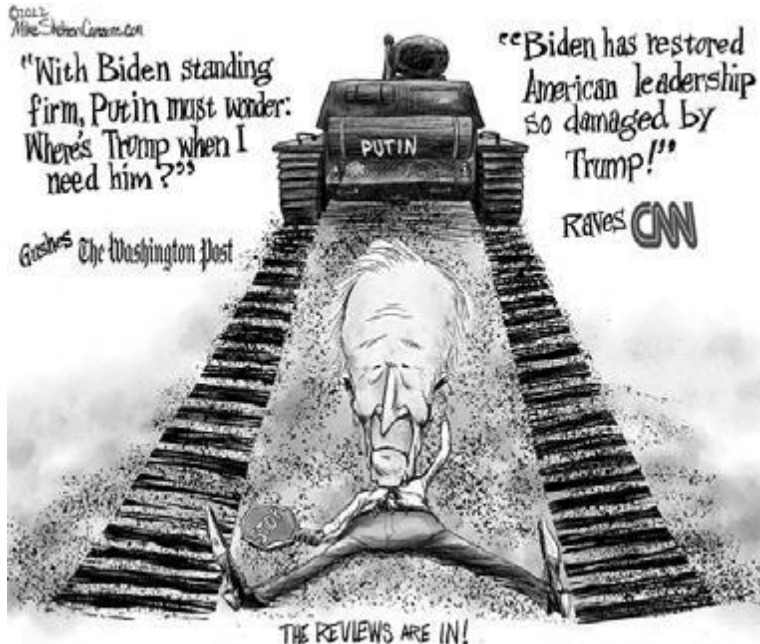
But when I think back on a year ago today, time did slow down for a while. Peter and I stayed at home and the only people we saw were Peter’s sister, Lori, and her husband. Every week, Peter cooked and I read and time seemed to slow to a stop. There was no pressure to do more there was nothing more we could do. And so, we talked until Lori was tired and, a few days later, we did it again. Lori died later in the year.

Now time has resumed its normal pace, and it’s good to be traveling and seeing friends and family again. But sometimes it feels as if I’ve forgotten something important about the time that just passed. Sometimes it seems to me that there was a lesson in that time that I could use now, as my calendar fills.

Because the time that just passed was not like the time that came before or the time after. For a while, time took time off. For a while, I had time for butter.

Till next time,  
Carrie

Carrie Classon’s memoir is called “Blue Yarn.” Learn more at [CarrieClasson.com](http://CarrieClasson.com).

By LORAN SMITH  
Columnist

Out here in this corner of Elbert County, fallow land will soon be hosting sprouting seeds from which will emerge row crops which will likely yield a bountiful harvest after surviving March’s blustering winds, April’s tornadoes and summer’s heat and dry spells to welcome the glory of the fall—the harvest season.

The rural countryside is a reminder that for all of technology’s worth, that for survival, somebody must till the soil and remain committed to the earth for the rest of us to make it. About the time of the Louisiana Purchase in the early 1800s, 80% of the world’s population lived on farms. Today, that figure has dwindled down to 2%.

I chose to take a meandering trip into these rural parts last week on the first warm day we have had since Santa Claus was hustling about. I simply wanted to traverse the two-lane roads into the becoming hinterlands and wind up at Jim’s restaurant in Bowman for lunch with proprietor,

Chris White.

The countryside in these parts is alluring and fetching. Rolling fields with hay bales about and abundant cows that seem to keep their heads down all day long. Blow your horn, however, and they, like a nosy neighbor, will pause, lift their heads and look in your direction.

The countryside is pretty much the same the world over. The pastoral scenes of England, Scotland, France, Italy, Belgium are dominated by meadows, lakes and hay bales, streams and ducks on a pond. Just as it is in North Georgia, North Dakota and North South Carolina. I’m not sure about North Korea since I have never been there and don’t have a hankering to go where a rotten apple reigns in the seat of power.

The barren trees are now budding out. Everywhere from Comer to Dewy Rose to Franklin Springs to Nicholson to Winterville, the pace is without rush. Porches with ample firewood remaining, dogs sleeping nearby; miniature windmills rotating vociferously in a modest wind are pleasant scenes to savor. Dirt roads are still prevalent, often to usher you down to a farm pond where a fishing invitation would surely make your day.

White fences frame a home that is plantation-like, traditional wire fences surround another, a more modest one with less square footage and less acreage—makes you wonder which

## Back in the Day

## 100 YEARS AGO

No newspaper on file for this week.

## 85 YEARS AGO

Mrs. D.H. Perryman announces the marriage of her daughter, DeLores to Carr Colley on Saturday in St. Louis, Missouri.

The Band Mothers Club has started a drive to raise funds with which to send the Washington High School band to Savannah for the State Music Festival April 14-15. Mrs. George Ward is in charge of the campaign.

Dr. M.D. Collins, state school superintendent, will speak at the Auditorium-Armory Thursday.

Teachers of both the city and county systems will attend.

The home of the Nathan Bennett family burned down Friday night. They saved a good deal of furniture but lost the entire house and almost all their clothing.

## 75 YEARS AGO

Mr. and Mrs. C.L. Boyd of Durham, N.C., announce the engagement of their daughter, Eleanor Wilkerson, to Stephen E. Blackmon of Washington, Ga. The wedding will take place in Duke Memorial Church in June.

Fire from an overheated oil heater caused damage in the walls and woodwork of the Woman’s Club

house Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. G.L. Wheatley announce the birth of a son, Leonard Herman, at Washington General Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Leard announce the birth of a daughter, Henrietta Janet, at St. Mary’s Hospital in Athens on February 28.

## 50 YEARS AGO

The City of Washington and Wilkes County have agreed to share in the purchase of an intoximeter, to be used in testing those suspected of drunken driving.

The Washington Rotary Club made special award presentations to Owen Hoffman and John Boyd at its Ladies’ Night banquet last week. Hoffman was presented the “Distinguished Citizen Award” for many years of selfless service to the people of Washington. Boyd was honored for outstanding service to Rotary and the community.

Mr. and Mrs. Aage Hoffman announce the engagement of their daughter, Elizabeth Dianne, to Thomas H. Bunch Jr. The wedding will be an event of April 9 at the Washington Chapel.

The community of Philomath has announced an interesting and extensive “Tour of Homes,” to be held on May 13.

## 25 YEARS AGO

Abby Barnett and Alicia Maret received the coveted and prestigious 4-H’er of the Year award at the 1997 Wilkes County 4-H Awards Celebration Saturday evening, March 1 at the Washington-Wilkes Comprehensive High School cafeteria. The award includes a \$500 scholarship given each year by Mitchell Willingham.

The fourth grade Project SEE (gifted) class at Washington-Wilkes Elementary School is participating in the Community Problem Solving Program, a division of the Future Problem Solving Program at the University of Georgia. Teacher of the class is Joanna McMaster.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

## Seventh week of session with the Georgia General Assembly

By Rep. Trey Rhodes  
Georgia House District 120

(Trey Rhodes serves as chairman of the House of Representatives Game, Fish, and Parks Committee and is a member of the Banks and Banking, Economic Development and Tourism, Special Rules, and Ways and Means committees. He represents Greene, Oglethorpe, Taliaferro, and parts of Wilkes and Putnam counties.)



On Tuesday, February 22, the Georgia House of Representatives reconvened for a short albeit productive seventh week of the 2022 legislative session. We hunkered down and made the most of two session days and one full committee work day. As usual, we debated and voted on an array of legislation in the House Chamber, and by the end of the week, my colleagues and I reached Legislative Day 20, which means we are at the halfway point of the session.

House Bill 1092

Georgia Women’s Child Care Alternatives, Resources, and Education Act

This bipartisan legislation passed unanimously in the House

and would provide greater care for incarcerated pregnant women who are sentenced to a period of confinement in a penal institution to have their sentences deferred for the duration of their pregnancies until six weeks postpartum.

This bill would:

- Give judges the discretion to deny deferment if the pregnant woman is a safety risk
- Deferment would not count as “time served” for the offender
- Give the pregnant woman the ability to decline the deferment.
- Require offender to maintain perinatal health care, treatment, and assessments and participate in education and resource programs
- Require every female offender who is not released on bond within 72 hours of an arrest to be given the option to submit to a urine pregnancy test
- Require Georgia’s penal institutions to annually report to the Georgia Department of Public Health the total number of female offenders who are pregnant, incarcerated, declined pregnancy testing and/or declined deferred sentencing

If the offender does not comply with these perinatal health care requirements, the court could rescind the deferred sentence and order immediate confinement.

To keep up with this evolving learning environment, the House passed House Bill 1217, or the Student Technology Protection

Continued on page 6

## Bowman, et al

Chris White.

If you motor out this far, all roads lead to Jim’s if you want a hearty breakfast or a filling lunch. I have had the good fortune to experience each. If you arrange both on the same day, you won’t need any supper.

In an otherwise perfect rural world, I spotted a dead skunk on the side of the road. Slowing down was of ultimate priority as there was the good sense to maneuver the car as far as possible to the other side of the road, making sure the vehicle did not come anywhere near this contaminated varmint. Run over its dead carcass and your car could emit his offensive odor for up to three weeks.

Circling back to beautiful downtown Bowman and Jim’s, it was about closing time. Chris was tidying up after a long half day. He spends most afternoons preparing for the next day, managing home chores for him and his mother, Maudie.

Chris is a country music fan and a passionate sports fan. There is a Dolly Parton poster on the wall along with one of Elvis and another of Clark Gable and Gone with the Wind. There are autographed photos of Charley Trippi, Bobby Bowden and Mark Richt, all of whom he has met. He has also been introduced to Paul Hornung, Lee Roy Jordan and Herschel Walker. He has their autographs, too, and considers them valuable enough to keep stored in his safe deposit box. He has gotten to meet such sports

personalities by being a member of the Touchdown Club of Athens. “The Touchdown Club has great speakers,” he says. “That is a highlight of the fall for me to hear and meet those outstanding sports personalities.” His favorite in a long lineup of interesting and entertaining speakers was Holly Rowe, the ESPN sideline reporter. “How nice she is,” Chris says. “Her speech blew everybody away.” For years he has collected baseball and NFL cards. “I just never outgrew them, and they are getting popular again.”

One day soon, I am sure there will be an autographed photo of Mecole Hardman, the former Bulldog receiver who is a multi-talent with the Kansas City Chiefs and a native of Bowman.

Chris’ late father, Shelton, bought the restaurant from his brother, Jim, in 1983. It has been a gathering place in Bowman since that time. It is worth it to take a 30-minute drive from Athens out to Jim’s for a meal. On your journey, you would be smitten by the rural scenes and the mesmerizing countryside.

Georgia’s national championship is much appreciated in this bucolic countryside and for sure, at Jim’s Restaurant and especially with Chris White. Chris might even arrange for you to drive a John Deere tractor if you want to come his way.

Hard to beat down home living in downtown Bowman.

## The News-Reporter

www.news-reporter.com

(USPS 387-580)

Published every Thursday  
at Washington, Georgia, by  
Quarterdeck Publishing, Inc.

The Official Organ of  
Washington and  
Wilkes County, Georgia

Offices are located at 23 West Robert  
Toombs Avenue. Mailing address is  
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Member, Georgia Press Association

—SUBSCRIPTION RATES—

One year in Wilkes County - \$26.00

Lincoln, Taliaferro Counties - \$26.00

Outside three-county area - \$41.00

(includes 8% state and local sales tax)

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Periodicals Postage paid at Washington, Georgia. POSTMASTER: send address changes to *The News-Reporter*, P.O. Box 597, Washington, GA 30673.